

DESERT LEGACY FUND California Desert Research Guidelines and Instructions

**Application Deadlines:
March 15, 2011 and October 24, 2011**

The California Desert Research Fund supports graduate student research that contributes to the understanding and conservation of desert parks, wildernesses, and other ecologically significant open spaces in the California Desert in San Bernardino, Riverside, Inyo, and Imperial Counties.

1. **Grants ranging from \$1,000-\$4,000 are available** for scientific research conducted by graduate students in wildlands of the California Desert, especially within wilderness areas and wilderness study areas.
2. Grants will be awarded on the basis of:
 - the potential of the research to contribute to the understanding, management, restoration and/or conservation of desert wildernesses;
 - the feasibility of completing research as stated in the application; and
 - the degree to which the project meets the selection criteria and considerations described below.

Application Procedures

1. Complete the application and submit **5 copies before the deadline to:**
Celia Cudiamat
Vice President of Grant Programs
The Community Foundation
4280 Latham Street, Suite C
Riverside, CA 92501
2. Applications should be accompanied by:
 - a letter from the supervising faculty member indicating his/her support of the proposed research, its merits for funding by the California Desert Research Fund, and the ability of the applicant to conduct the research and meet established deadlines;
 - a letter from the agency or reserve site (as appropriate) authorizing use of the pertinent public lands or reserve for the proposed research; and
 - a copy of current curriculum vita for the applicant(s) (two pages maximum).
3. Written notification of awards will be mailed within 8 weeks after the submission deadline.
4. Successful applicants must submit copies of appropriate collecting permits and animal care committee approvals before awards will be disbursed. Awarded funds may be used up to a year after the award is granted. Award recipients may use funds beyond a year only with approval from the Community Foundation Serving Riverside and San Bernardino.
5. Awardees must submit a progress report to the Community Foundation six months after the receipt of the award and a final report at the end of a year. Applicants will be disqualified from grant programs if they do not comply with this requirement.

Evaluation Criteria

The Evaluation Committee shall use the following criteria to evaluate proposals:

Primary Criteria

1. **Research Quality (10 pts):** Evaluation of research quality will be based on the importance of the problem, originality, statement of research questions or hypothesis, sampling design and analysis, preliminary data supporting the feasibility of the proposed research, and likelihood of success.
2. **Wilderness Relevance and Management of Wilderness Lands (10 pts):** A component of the research must take place in federally designated wilderness areas, although some related research may also take place in the areas or regions in which the wilderness is located. Applicants should provide a detailed description of locations where research will take place. Higher scores will be assigned to research that benefits from the special conditions provided by wilderness, such as quality of natural processes, history of related research, and occurrence of unique features or resources. Also, research that contributes to the understanding and management of wilderness lands will be given higher consideration.

Primary proposal score will be the sum of criteria (1) and (2).

Additional considerations

The following criteria will not be assigned numerical scores, but will be taken into consideration when comparing similarly ranked proposals.

1. **Budget:** Because of limited funds, smaller funding requests and budgets that demonstrate an efficient use of funding will be favored. The project budget should be specific and clearly connected to the research project's description. Overhead charges and/or indirect costs are not allowable.
2. **University Location:** Preference will be given to students enrolled at a southern California-based university while conducting their research. However, students from out-of-state institutions are also eligible for funding.
3. **Funding:** Preference will be given to projects that have not previously been funded by the Desert Legacy Research Fund.

Applications Due Cycle 1: March 15, 2011
Applications Due Cycle 2: October 24, 2011

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INSTRUCTIONS: To maintain an efficient and equitable review process, applicants must provide all requested information within the spaces provided. Type font should be no smaller than 10 point. Applications not adhering to these guidelines may be rejected. Written notification of awards will be mailed 8 weeks after the submission deadline.

APPLICANT(S) INFORMATION (attach current curriculum vita)

Name(s):	Mailing address:
College/University:	Campus academic department:
Daytime phone number: E-mail address:	Advisor:
Requested Amount:	Have you ever received a CDRF Grant? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If yes, indicate year(s) and amount(s)

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION (Be clear, concise and complete. Please explain and justify the research to the review panel. Be as precise as possible when describing the location where research will be conducted.)

Title of research project:
Location(s) where research to be conducted:
Purpose of research project:
How are the locations (particularly wilderness areas) important to the study?

Research objectives, hypotheses (if so stated), experimental design, methods and anticipated significance (as applicable). In particular, please indicate how the research suggested has relevance to wilderness conservation and land management. Limit description to the space provided on pages 2 and 3.

Time schedule (including the date of submission of a six-month progress report and final report to The Community Foundation.)

BUDGET INFORMATION

List the items for which support is requested, their cost, and the total amount requested. Funding may be requested for: necessary supplies and equipment; wilderness research fees; actual cost of food and travel to; from and at the wilderness; special logistical costs; computer support; access costs to special analytical equipment, travel to scholarly conferences/seminars, etc. Non-allowable categories include: preparation of thesis copy; salaries and stipends; publication costs; purchase of classroom books; and purchase of computers and printers.

Supplies and minor equipment (itemize):	\$
Fees charged by the managing agency (itemize):	\$
Travel to site (up to 48.5¢/mile for use of personal vehicle)	\$
Subsistence:	\$
Other:	\$
Total Request (\$4,000 maximum):	

List all sources of funding for this project (include grants pending or awarded to you or your supervising faculty member and state how this grant will supplement these other sources.)

Budget explanation (present a brief but convincing argument for any requested items whose justifications are not obvious).

PLEASE ATTACH

■ References cited	■ Letter from reserve manager authorizing use of reserve
■ Letter from supervising faculty	■ Current curriculum vita